



# Conservation Information

## PLANT YOUR LEGACY



*LIVE IN EACH SEASON AS IT PASSES;  
BREATHE THE AIR, DRINK THE DRINK,  
TASTE THE FRUIT, AND RESIGN YOURSELF  
TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE EARTH.*



- Henry David Thoreau

Agri-Civic Center  
26032-C Newt Road  
Albemarle, NC 28001

### District Board Members

<b>Curtis Furr</b>	Chairman
<b>Aaron Burleson</b>	Vice-Chairman
<b>Jody Smith</b>	Treasurer
<b>Chester Lowder</b>	Supervisor
<b>Gerald McSwain</b>	Supervisor

District Board Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Stanly County Agri Civic Center. All meetings are open to the public.

### District and NRCS Staff

<b>Amanda Kirby</b>	District Conservation Tech.
<b>Rita Little</b>	Admin/Education Coordinator
<b>Joshua Pratt</b>	Soil Conservationist
<b>Lin Taylor</b>	Civil Engineer Technician

## Ag Cost Share Programs Available

Soil and Water Conservation Districts implement four cost share programs, all of which share a common goal of increasing water quality. These programs include the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The District accepts applications year round for each of these programs. Applications are ranked based on various criteria and conservation concerns. The highest ranking application is considered for assistance to install best management practices.



**ACSP**-The major cause of water quality problems in the area is non-point source pollution. Damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive fertilizer use, animal waste contamination, and improper use of agricultural chemicals. The Agriculture Cost Share Program helps address nonpoint source pollution.



**AgWRAP**-The Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program was recently created in order to address water quantity issues. Producer concerns include water to be used for cropland irrigation and livestock watering. Multiple best management practices are available to help producers increase their water use efficiency, availability and storage.



**CREP**-The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is available to protect environmentally sensitive cropland and marginal pasture land long term. This is accomplished through 10, 15, and 30 year conservation easements.



# *Erosion Control Materials*

For more information contact Stanly SWCD

704-986-3059

[rlittle@stanlycountync.gov](mailto:rlittle@stanlycountync.gov)



Straw Double Net  
8 ft. x 112.5 ft.

\$28.00 each



Excelsior Single Net  
4 ft. x 180 ft.

\$38.00 each



Straw Wattle  
12 in. x 10 ft.

\$25.00 each



Wood Stake  
1.5 in. x 24 in.  
Bundle of 25

.75 each  
\$16.00 bundle



Sod Staples  
6" 1000/box \$30.00 box





United States Department of Agriculture

## Farm Service Agency

# County Committee Elections – 2020

FACT SHEET  
April 2020

### Overview

Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Farmers and ranchers who are elected to serve on FSA county committees apply using their judgment and knowledge to help with the decisions necessary to administer FSA programs in their counties, ensuring the needs of local producers are met. FSA county committees operate within official federal regulations and provide local input on:

- Income safety-net loans and payments, including setting county average yields for commodities;
- Conservation programs;
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities;
- Emergency programs; and
- Payment eligibility.

Every eligible agricultural producer should participate in FSA county committee elections—whether you are a beginning or established producer, historically underserved producer (minority and women), or whether you have a large or small operation—because FSA county committees are your link with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### Election Period

**June 15, 2020** -The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local FSA county office or obtain online at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

**August 1, 2020** -Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA county office.

**November 2, 2020** -Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

**December 7, 2020** -Last day to return voted ballots to the FSA county office.

**January 1, 2021** -Newly elected county committee members take office.





## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS - APRIL 2020

### Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. Members of American Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote if voting requirements are met. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member," located at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections). Producers may contact their local FSA county office for more information. To find your local FSA county office, visit [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).

### Nominations

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county office. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. In addition, organizations representing underserved (minority and women) farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. Nomination forms are filed in the FSA office that administers a producer's farm records and is available at the FSA county office or online at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA county office by August 1, 2020, or next available business day.

### Don't Miss Out On Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2, 2020, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 7, 2020. Eligible voters must contact their local FSA county office before the final date if they did not receive a ballot.

### Uniform Guidelines

USDA issued uniform guidelines for county committee elections to help ensure that FSA county committees fairly represent the agricultural producers of a county or multi-county jurisdiction, especially underserved (minority and women) producers. Targeted underserved producers are African-Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders. In addition to minority and women producers, USDA strongly encourages beginning farmers to actively seek a position on a county committee. The guidelines govern the FSA county committee election process and are designed to increase participation of underserved (minorities and women).

The following are just some of the specifics of the guidelines:

- If no valid nominations are filed, the Secretary of Agriculture may nominate up to two individuals to be placed on the ballot.
- FSA county committees annually review local administrative area boundaries to ensure the fair representation of minority and women producers in their county or multi-county jurisdictions.
- FSA county offices locate and recruit eligible candidates identified as minority and women farmers and ranchers as potential nominees for the FSA county committee elections through outreach and publicity, including the development of partnerships with community-based organizations.

The guidelines are located at FSA County Committee Elections page at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).





## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS - APRIL 2020

### Appointed Voting Members

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to appoint targeted underserved committee members with voting privileges to serve on FSA county committees in county or multi-county jurisdictions that lack fair representation from those groups. Secretarial appointees do not replace elected members but join them as voting members on the committee. Individuals serving as non-voting minority advisors are encouraged to submit a nomination form. These forms are also accepted from community-based organizations representing targeted underserved producers. Targeted underserved voting members are appointed by the Secretary from the nominations received.

### Role of Advisors

In addition to elected or appointed members, FSA county committees may also include non-voting minority advisors. Advisors are selected to county committees in counties or multi-county jurisdictions that have significant numbers of underserved (minority or women) producers but lack such members on FSA county committees. Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of underserved (minorities and women) in decisions made by county committees. FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community-based organizations.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

### For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For program specifics or additional information about FSA county committees, visit a local USDA Service Center or the FSA county committee website at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

### Find your Local USDA Service Center

Find your local USDA Service Center at [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

### USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

*The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Stanly SWCD prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communication at (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (Voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD).*

## **Farmers and Ranchers in NC Can Now Apply for Financial Assistance through USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program**

*Online Tools and Toll-Free Number Available to Assist Producers*

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications. The agency set up a call center in order to simplify how they serve new customers across the nation.

Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020. Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion for vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

We also want to remind producers that the program is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments.

Additionally, producers in search of one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a good first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

### **Applying for Assistance**

Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Those who use the online calculator tool will be able to print off a pre-filled CFAP application, sign, and submit to your local FSA office either electronically or via hand delivery. Please contact your local office to determine the preferred method. Find contact information for your local office at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested after the application is filed. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed.

### **Additional Commodities**

USDA is also establishing a process for the public to identify additional commodities for potential inclusion in CFAP. Specifically, USDA is looking for data on agricultural commodities, that are not currently eligible for CFAP, that the public believes to have either:

- suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, shipped but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channel, or not left the farm or remained unharvested as mature crops.

More information about this process is available on [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

To find the latest information on CFAP, visit [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap) or [call 877-508-8364](tel:877-508-8364).

## **USDA Reminds Producers to Complete Crop Acreage Reports and File Prevented or Failed Notices of Loss**

The Stanly County office for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is currently open to phone and virtual appointments only but can still work with producers on timely filing crop acreage reports. FSA staff can provide assistance over the phone, by email and through virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Stanly County:

<b>July 15, 2020</b>	Perennial Forage, Beans (Planted 6/26-7/10) all other crops not listed below (including Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, and CRP)
August 15, 2020	Hemp
September 15, 2020	Beans (Planted 7/15-9/5), Cabbage (Planted 7/15-9/5)
November 15, 2020	Apiculture, Clary Sage
January 15, 2021	Fall-Seeded Small Grains, Rapeseed, Apples, Blueberries, Canola, Grapes, Peaches
May 15, 2021	Beans (Planted 3/25-5/8), Cabbage (Planted 2/2-4/20), Potatoes

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers must file an accurate crop acreage report by the applicable deadline. FSA staff is still able to assist producers in completing acreage reports, including providing maps.

The Stanly County FSA office will provide maps to producers through mail, or email with instructions for completing the maps. After planting is complete, producers should return completed maps and the acreage reporting sheet by mail or email by as soon as possible to meet the July 15, 2020 deadline.

The Stanly County FSA office can use Microsoft Teams software to virtually meet with producers to review maps and documents for certification. Producers who want to schedule a virtual appointment can download the Microsoft Teams app on their smart phones and call the FSA office for an appointment. You can also use Microsoft Teams from your personal computer without downloading software.

After completed maps and all acreage reporting information is received, FSA will make software updates and mail or email producers the completed *Report of Acreage* form (FSA-578) to sign. Producers must return the signed form certifying their acreage report to the FSA office through by July 15, 2020.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office. Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. If you have applied for organic certification and do not receive it before the acreage reporting deadline, you may provide the necessary documentation to FSA immediately upon receipt from the certifying agent.



## **File a Notice of Loss for Failed Acres and Prevented Planting**

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs.

Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres.

Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishables must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, within the required 15 calendar days.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), producers must file a *Notice of Loss* within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers must timely file a *Notice of Loss* for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

Please contact the Stanly County FSA Office at 704-982-5114, extension 2, to file a crop report or *Notice of Loss*.

## **FSA Reminds Producers of Ongoing Disaster Assistance Program Signup**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has started making payments through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) to agricultural producers who suffered eligible losses because of drought or excess moisture in 2018 and 2019. Signup for these causes of loss opened March 23, and producers who suffered losses from drought (in counties designated D3 or above), excess moisture, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms or wildfires can still apply for assistance through WHIP+.

To be eligible for WHIP+, producers must have suffered losses of certain crops, trees, bushes or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only) for qualifying natural disaster events that occurred in calendar years 2018 or 2019. Also, losses located in a county not designated by the Secretary as a primary county may be eligible if a producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a qualifying natural disaster event.

For losses due to drought, a producer is eligible if any area of the county in which the loss occurred was rated D3, or extreme drought, or higher on the U.S. Drought Monitor during calendar years 2018 or 2019. Producers who suffered losses should contact their FSA county office.

In addition to the recently added eligible losses of drought and excess moisture, FSA will implement a WHIP+ provision for crop quality loss that resulted in price deductions or penalties when marketing crops damaged by eligible disaster events. To ensure an effective program for all impacted farmers, the Agency is currently gathering information on the extent of quality loss from producers and stakeholder organizations.

USDA Service Centers, including FSA county offices, are open for business by phone only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information on Service Centers can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus), and more information on WHIP+ can be found at [farmers.gov/whip-plus](https://farmers.gov/whip-plus).



26032-C Newt Road  
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704-986-3059

[www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water](http://www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water)

### Mission Statement

The mission of Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide education, information and technical assistance to citizens of Stanly County for the conservation of our soil and water resources.



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(704) 982-2226 or 2228  
Steve Edwards, Manager



**Mauney  
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Kelly Vick  
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New London, NC 28127

704-463-1331



**Stanly County  
Farm Bureau**  
**704-982-0113**

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44558 N.C. Hwy 8  
New London, NC 28127

Mobile (704) 985-5437  
Email [newportlandser@yahoo.com](mailto:newportlandser@yahoo.com)